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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/894,413	06/28/2001	Jy-Jine James Lin	STL920000095US1	6888

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EXAMINER

CHAVIS, JOHN Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2124

DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/894,413

Applicant(s)

LIN ET AL.

Examiner

John Chavis

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/1/01
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 5, 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 5, 17 and 29 do not end with a period. Therefore, it is not clear if it is intended to end or if something has been inadvertently omitted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gibson et al. (6,006,193).

CLAIMS:

Gibson

1. A method for implementing a workflow comprised of nodes, comprising: generating a workflow packet accessed by users at the nodes in the workflow;

See col. 1 lines 20-43.

receiving a request to add one target object in one of a plurality of data stores to the workflow packet, wherein each data store includes multiple objects;

See col. 3 lines 43-63.

determining a first object identifier of the target object that is used to identify the target object in one data store;

See col. 4 lines 22-35. The organization ID's are used to identify organizations and sub-organizations to the database (data store). See also col. 3 lines 14-33.

generating a second object identifier indicating the data store including the target object and the first object identifier; and

See figs. 5 and 7, which provides for consistency of definitional data concerning shared work (col. 1 lines 54-67) in databases shared by a plurality of organizations (col. 2 lines 14-33).

inserting the generated second object identifier into the workflow packet, where nodes accessing objects in the workflow packet use the second object identifier to access the target object for use at the node.

See col. 2 lines 34-46, which associates the various ID's to enable each access to the shared data.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data stores are capable of being different types of data stores and from different vendors.

The data stores can be different types and from different vendors, as indicated via col. 1 lines 9-19.

3. A method of performing an Input/Output (I/O) operation on an object during execution of a workflow comprised of nodes, comprising:

See the rejection of claim 1.

providing a plurality of objects stored in one of multiple data stores, wherein each object is identified within the data store with a first object identifier;

providing a workflow packet referencing at least one object with a second object identifier, wherein the second object identifier indicates one of the data stores and the first object identifier of the referenced object in the data store;

receiving, from one node, an I/O request for one target object referenced by one second object identifier in the workflow packet;

determining from the second object identifier the data store of the target object and the first object identifier of the target object; and

performing the I/O request on the target object at the determined first object identifier in the determined data store.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein one workflow packet is associated with a plurality of the nodes in the workflow, and wherein the nodes submit I/O requests for one or more objects referenced by the second object identifiers in the workflow packet.

See the rejection of claim 1.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the data stores are capable of being different types of data stores and from different vendors

See the rejection of claim 2.

6. The method of claim 3, further comprising: defining at least one work item for each node including a reference to the workflow packet, wherein the work item includes actions to perform with respect to at least one object in one data store referenced in the workflow packet; and receiving I/O requests from multiple nodes for objects referenced by second object identifiers in the workflow packet.

See col. 3 lines 1-9.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein the I/O request comprises a workflow I/O request, wherein each data store is accessed using data store interfaces, further comprising: providing a mapping

See col. 3 lines 43-63 in which the interfaces control access to the stored data.

of workflow I/O requests to the data store interfaces for each of the data stores, wherein each workflow I/O request maps to one or more data store interfaces for each data store, wherein the data store interfaces implement the workflow I/O requests in the data store;

and determining from the mapping the at least one data store interface for the determined data store that implements the workflow I/O request in the determined data store, wherein the workflow I/O request is performed using the determined at least one data store interface.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the data stores are capable of comprising different types of data stores from different vendors that utilize different sets of data store interfaces to enable access to objects in the data stores, and

wherein the mapping enables the workflow I/O requests to be executed across heterogeneous data stores.

9. The method of claim 3, wherein the objects in the data store are capable of comprising documents, video files, audio files, and images.

10. The method of claim 3, further comprising: receiving a request, from at

“ “ “ “

See the rejection of claim 2.

The applicant should not that the term “capable of” is not the same as actually performing the function. Therefore, Gibson’s business system is definitely capable of storing documents and possibly images related to the business, such as charts and graphs. In reference to the audio and video files, the system consists of a database with a memory, see col. 4 line 54-67, and is therefore considered capable of storing video and audio files as other memory systems.

See col. 4 lines 36-67, which provides for referencing the

least one node, to add one second object identifier to the workflow packet referencing one object in one of the data stores that is not already referenced in the workflow packet, wherein subsequent nodes in the workflow are capable of accessing the object referenced by the added second object identifier.

workflow packets based on the ID's associated with them.

11. The method of claim 3, further comprising: receiving a request, from at least one node, to remove one second object identifier in the workflow packet referencing one object in one of the data stores, wherein subsequent nodes in the workflow will not be capable of accessing the object referenced by the removed second object identifier.

See col. 3 line 43-63 and col. 6 lines 4-11.

12. The method of claim 3, wherein the I/O request comprises a request to perform one of reading, writing or opening to the target object.

The system can process (col. 6 lines 22-24), transfer (col. 6 lines 55-59), which requires opening and reading and defining (col. 5 lines 55-64), which requires writing.

The features of claims 13-24 and 25-36 are taught via claims 1-12 above. The system of claims 13-24 is indicated via fig. 1 and the article of manufacture is indicated via col. 1 lines 5-9, which is stored in the database (memory) of fig. 1.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Chavis whose telephone number is (703) 305-9665. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kakali Chaki can be reached on (703) 305-9662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JC
September 30, 2004



JOHN CHAVIS
PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2124